

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08  
TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 /143 W  
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R 161515Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7958  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 2315

E.O. 11652: GDS  
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TAGS: EAID, PEPR, UR, YS  
SUBJECT: SOVIET BRIEFING ON PDRY PM VISIT

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 1716, (B) MOSCOW 1639, (C) MOSCOW 1791

SUMMARY: SOVIET BRIEFING ON RECENT VISIT OF PDRY PM EMPHASIZES  
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ANGLES. UNDER QUESTIONING, SOVIET OF-

FICIAL DESCRIBES "DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN SOVIET AND YEMENI POLICIES AS RELATING TO GENEVA CONFERENCE. SOVIET SOURCE FORESEES EVEN CLOSER SOVIET-YEMENI RELATIONSHIP IN FUTURE, BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL RESULT IN ANY NEW DRAMATIC POLITICAL STEP SUCH AS SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP TREATY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEB. 14 EMBOFF CALLED ON SECOND SECRETARY IGOR' ALEK-SANDROVICH MELIKHOV, MFA N.E. COUNTRIES DEPT. (YEMENS AND SUDAN) FOR DISCUSSION OF RECENT VISIT OF PDRY PM 'ALI NASIR MUHAMMED. MELIKHOV SAID HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TALKS, BUT NOT IN SEPARATE MILITARY TALKS. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS, MELIKHOV MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. -- ON M.E. MELIKHOV DENIED THAT TERM "FRANKNESS" (OTKRO-  
VENNOST') USED TO DESCRIBE ATMOSPHERE OF BREZHNEV-MUHAMMED  
MEETING RANKED COOLER ON SEMANTIC SCALE THAN, SAY, "SINCERITY"  
(ISKRENNOST') (REF A, PARA 2). HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT  
NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO "EXCHANGES OF OPINION" BETWEEN TWO SIDES  
RELATED PRIMARILY TO PDRY UNWILLINGNESS TO BUDGE FROM FIRM  
POSITION AGAINST CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. PDRY ATTITUDE,  
HE SAID, WAS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) IF PLO WAS ISSUED SEPARATE INVITATION TO ATTEND GENEVA  
CONFERENCE, AND,

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(B) IF PLO AGREED TO ATTEND, THEN,

(C) PDRY WOULD ALSO SUPPORT GENEVA.

BUT, IN ABSENCE OF FIRST TWO CONDITIONS, PDRY SAW NO PURPOSE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE AND WOULD NOT SUPPORT IT.

3. -- ASKED ABOUT KOSYGIN'S RATHER PESSIMISTIC REFERENCE TO GENEVA IN HIS FEB. 2 DINNER SPEECH TO MUHAMMED, MELIKHOV SAID THIS WAS NATURAL REFLECTION OF SOVIET DISENCHANTMENT WITH COURSE OF M.E. EVENTS FOLLOWING HIGH POINT REPRESENTED BY OCT. 2 JOINT SOVIET-US STATEMENT ON M.E.

4. -- ON HORN. MELIKHOV ADMITTED THAT MUCH TIME IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO SITUATION IN HORN, BUT HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON DETAILS. HE ADMITTED OBVIOUS VISIT EMPHASIS ON MILITARY COOPERATION, DAID THAT AN ASSUMPTION COULD BE MADE THAT PREVIOUS LEVEL WOULD BE STEPPED UP, BUT DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF DETAILS.

5. -- ON ECONOMIC MATTTTERS. MELIKHOV SAID YEMENIS HAD PRESSED HARD FOR MORATORIUM ON DEBT INTEREST AND FOR LENGTHENING OF

TERMS OF REPAYMENT. HE IMPLIED THAT SOVIETS WOULD FAVORABLY  
CONSIDER MATTER. ECONOMIC AGREEMENT NOTED IN PRESS HAD COVERED  
A NUMBER OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS, FOR

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EXAMPLE, OIL EXPLORATION IN NORTH-EAST (KUWAITIS AND ALGERIANS  
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ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN THAT REGION, HE SAID) AND CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT FACTORY. MELIKHOV SAID NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO PRESENCE OF SOVIET MINISTER OF MARITIME FLEET GUZHENKO AS REPORTED IN PRESS. HE ATTENDED ONLY CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS AND WAS INVITED SIMPLY BECAUSE OF ONGOING SOVIET-YEMENI COOPERATION IN CIVILIAN MARITIME MATTERS AND BECAUSE OF SOVIET DESIRE TO BEEF UP MINISTERIAL LEVEL REPRESENTATION AT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS FOR MUHAMMED.

6. -- ON POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP. MELIKHOV FELT THAT LANGUAGE IN BOTH KOSYGIN AND MUHAMMED SPEECHES IMPLYING NEW PROGRESS IN BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS (REF A, PARA 6) MEANT ONLY THE MUTUAL DESIRE FOR AN INTENSIFICATION OF PRESENT RELATIONS. YEMENIS, HE SAID, WERE VERY SOPHISTICATED IN THEIR APPROACH TOWARD TRANSFORMATION OF PRESENT "ORGANIZATION", THE NATIONAL FRONT, INTO A POLITICAL "PARTY". AS A SIGN OF THEIR POLITICAL MATURITY, THE YEMENIS THEMSELVES HAD NOT FELT THAT THE NATIONAL FRONT WAS READY FOR THIS TRANSITION IN THE PAST, BUT NOW THEY HAD DECIDED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. THIS WOULD MEAN THE REMOVAL OF "VACILLATING" ELEMENTS FROM THE FRONT AND A GENERAL TIGHTENING OF POLITICAL DISCIPLINE. CPSU CADRE WOULD HELP IN THIS PROCESS AS THEY WERE HELPING NOW WITH LECTURES, POLITICAL WORKSHOPS, AND ADVICE. MELIKHOV SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE SOVIET SIDE HAD ANY INTEREST IN MAKING MORE FORMAL (E.G., ALONG LINES OF CPSU-MPLA AGREEMENT) THE EXISTING POLITICAL TIES BETWEEN CPSU AND YEMENI "PARTY".

7. MELIKHOV STATED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT MOSCOW HAD NEITHER INTEREST IN NOR NEED FOR SIGNING SUCH AGREEMENTS WITH PDRY AS FRIENDSHIP TREATY OR EVEN DECLARATION OF POLITICAL PRINCIPLES. FRIENDSHIP TREATIES, HE SAID, WERE OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO COUNTRIES FACING EXTERNAL THREAT. PDRY ALWAYS HAD

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BEEN SUBJECT TO CERTAIN PRESSURES - ESPECIALLY FROM SAUDI ARABIA BUT THESE DID NOT APPROACH LEVEL OF "THREAT". HE AGREED WITH EMBOFF THAT SIGNING FRIENDSHIP TREATY PROVIDED OTHER COUNTRY WITH INSTRUMENT FOR EXERTING AT LEAST SOME PRESSURE ON SOVIET UNION.

8. COMMENT: MELIKHOV COMMENTS AND OPINIONS ARE SHORT ON DETAIL, BUT MAY SHED AT LEAST SOME LIGHT ON SUBJECT OF ELUSIVE SOUTH YEMENIS. ARAB DIPLOMATS HERE HAVE NOT OBTAINED MUCH FROM PDRY EMBASSY. EGYPTIAN CHARGE TOLD US THAT PDRY AMB HAD TOLD

ARAB CHIEFS OF MISSION AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES ONLY THAT VISIT HAD BEEN "SUCCESSFUL" AND HAD CONCENTRATED ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. SYRIAN DCM HAD LITTLE MORE, BUT DID CORROBORATE PDRY-PLO CLOSENESS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2.

9. MELIKHOV'S COMMENTS IN PARA 7 ON LACK OF SOVIET INTEREST IN MAKING MORE FORMAL THE BILATERAL POLITICAL/ DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH PDRY ARE INTERESTING AS REFLECTION OF POSSIBLE SKEPTICISM AT MFA WORKING LEVEL OVER EFFICACY OF SUCH STEPS IN GENERAL. HOWEVER, WHILE EMBASSY DID NOT THINK TIME WAS RIGHT FOR SUCH A SOVIET MOVE DURING MUHAMMED VISIT (REF B, PARA 5), WE WOULD NOT CARE TO MAKE FIRM PREDICTION FOR FUTURE, PARTICULARLY ONE BASED ON MELIKHOV'S COMMENTS. (IN MID-NOVEMBER, 1977, MELIKHOV ALSO MADE COGENT, "LOGICAL" ARGUMENT TO EMBOFF REFUTING LATTER'S SUGGESTIONS OF PROBABILITY OF SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP IN PDRY.)  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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